

- **Colombia Mennonite Church asks for prayer amid violence** - Mennonite Church of Colombia (IMCOL) asks us to pray for them as they support congregations in areas of violence. "Violence is widespread and affects us all. There is not a day that goes by that we do not hear of deaths, fighting and coca crops and fear for the welfare of children, young people and the whole church. But as a Church we cannot fall into despair. These events pain us but we must strengthen our hope in God." Praise God for the witness of peace they bring to the region and the strong message of hope in darkness.

- **Pray for the future of PeaceBuilders Community, Inc.** PeaceBuilders Community, Inc., in Mindanao, Philippines, invites you to pray with them as they plan with Witness workers, Dann and Joji Pantoja, a sustainable future of training for peace and reconciliation and economic development with marginalized communities. Pray for wisdom as they seek God's vision for peace and harmony with the people and the land.

If you would like to add or remove any prayer requests, please contact the church office.

**Altona Mennonite Church
Vision**

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

Purpose

*We seek to know God through Jesus, the center of our faith.
We seek to follow God in community, through worship, fellowship, and interpreting the Scripture from a Christ-centered point of view, in the Anabaptist tradition.
We seek to obey God by working toward peace and reconciliation, in the spirit of Jesus, reconciling all people to God, to each other, and to the world around them.*

Deep calls to Deep Lent 2021

The world of isolation and virtual connection has become our reality. Suddenly the wilderness of Lent is all too real, as we are stripped of our usual surroundings, activities, and circles of relationship. In these months we along with the world experience both deep grief and invitations to a new spaciousness of time, as we needed to release so much of what usually fills our lives. The Scriptures for this season of Lent are filled with stories, songs, and promises that calls us to identify what is essential, what really matters, who we are at our core, and what God asks (and doesn't ask) of us. In the Scriptures and the traditions of Lent, we find a scrubbing away of the excess to get to the core of our Christian journeys and of ourselves. Lent 2021 becomes a season for renewed questioning of what we have discovered to be the deepest and truest parts of our lives and our journeys with God.

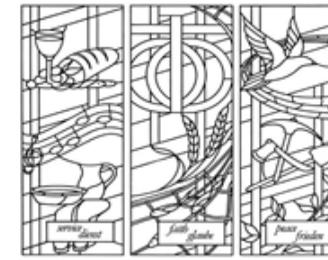
The call to go deeper can be frightening or overwhelming when we feel we are not ready and do not know what we will find. We keep much of our pain in our depths. The theme "Deep calls to deep" (Psalm 42:7) arouses in us God's calling out from a deeper place than the areas that we might think we can plan and control. God's call echoes in a deep place within us; a place where the words of love spoken to Jesus at his baptism dwell: "You are my Beloved; with you I am well pleased." might be lived deeply throughout Lent.
~ Adapted from "Deep calls to deep" *Leader* Winter 2020-21
Vol. 18 No. 2 p. 36

The Lenten theme for 2021 is DEEP CALLS TO DEEP.

The worship committee has chosen to use paintings as part of the visual enrichment for this theme. The two abstract paintings are by a Chilean woman, Lucy Regueme. She has entitled the green painting, "Land is our livelihood" and the orange one, "When sharing the bread with the hungry, your light will shine in the darkness".

Margruite Krahn's paintings are titled: Experimental Lakes, Ontario - 2006, Red Pine Stand, Dryberry Lake, Ontario - 2000, I travel along a path that is unknown to me, I travel between fear and hope... - 2018

Thanks to Harry Wiens for contributing four of his paintings and to Margruite Krahn for contributing the one.



**Altona
Mennonite
Church**

Sunday School – Adults & Children: 10:00 am
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 am

VOLUME LX No.12

March 21, 2021

Deep in the earth: Called to deep growth

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn VT #120 For the Beauty of the Earth

Call to Worship:

One: The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Many: God, teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. Put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.

One: We trust you, God, to forgive our iniquities and remember our sin no more.

Many: There is a time for everything, and sometimes, the hour is upon us.

One: Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, knowing that those who love their life will lose it.

Many: "The hour has come. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper growth.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hymn VT #636 Spirit, Open My Heart

AMC Contact information:

Pastor: Dan Kehler amcpastordan@gmail.com 204-324-6773
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 am to Noon
Secretary: Lori Hiebert: C: 204-324-5952
altonamennonite@gmail.com
Custodians: Dale Klassen 204-324-7458 Sandra Klassen 204-324-1475
Altona Mennonite Church is on Treaty One Territory.

Children's Time
Scripture: Psalm 51:1-12; John 12:20-33
Hymn VT #353 Now the Green Blade Rises
Message Let Go To Grow Pastor Dan Kehler
Prayer for the congregation
Hymn VT #750 God of the Fertile Fields
Benediction
Postlude

Worship Leader: Lori Hiebert
Musicians: Loren & Lori Hiebert, Dave & Hildie Regehr, Ken & Elaine Loewen, Mary Costen
Recording engineer: Henry Rempel

Worship & Meeting Events at AMC

March 24 10:30 am Coffee – email Dan
March 28 Worship Service – Palm Sunday
Theme: Deep in the Current: Called to deep hope *Scripture:* Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; John 12:12-16;
Philippians 2:5-11 *Speaker(s):* Dan Kehler *Worship Leader:* Elaine Loewen *Musicians:* Dave & Hildie Regehr *Sound:* Dale Klassen
March 30 7:30 pm Zoom coffee – email Dan
April 1 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday communion via Zoom
Information re Good Friday, Easter Sunday plans will come next week

Birthdays: March 24 – Ken Loewen, Sarah Sawatzky, John Thiessen

Anniversaries: March 25 – Greg & Lorraine Heinrichs

AMC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Congratulations** to Paul Hiebert and Erin Sawatzky who are engaged. The wedding is being planned for 2022.

- **Congratulations** to Andrea Hildebrand who was elected to the Mennonite Church Manitoba general board. Our prayers for wisdom and joy are with you.

- **From the treasurer:**

Thank you again for supporting the work of the Church. You may contribute online if you bank at Access (using your 7-digit phone number as your account number) make an e-transfer to amchurchdonations@gmail.com, or send or bring a cheque to AMC (Box 1237, Altona, R0G 0B0)

WIDER COMMUNITY & MISC. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thursday, March 25** at Altona – **Blood Donor Clinic** at Rhineland Pioneer Centre, Main Floor Hall 227 10th Ave NW from 2:00 – 7:00 pm. **Please call** 1-888-236-6238 to book your appointment - **NO WALK INS** please.

- **Mennonite Church Canada invites applications for the position of executive assistant**, beginning May, 2021. This position is full-time and located in Winnipeg, Man. Applicants from across Canada are invited to apply. Go to: <https://www.mennonitechurch.ca/article/11096-help-us-spread-the-word-were-hiring> for the full job description.

- Camps with Meaning Summer Staff applications are on the CWm website. Visit www.campswithmeaning.org and follow the Summer links.

- **Looking for a get-away? Camp Assiniboia has beautiful family cabins** that are available for individuals or groups who live in the same household. For rental information, please contact Linda Dueck 1-204-864-2159 ext. 2, or email: carentals@campswithmeaning.org

- **A CMU Podcast: So What? – Episode 3: Treaty** – What are treaties and why do they matter? This Podcast episode, coming out of a CMU Face2Face conversation entitled *Whose Neighbour Am I? Treaty One and Mennonite Privilegium*, features Niigaan James Sinclair and Hans Werner, reflecting on treaties signed by First Nations and Canadian Mennonite settlers. How might we live into Treaty as ongoing relationship with mutual benefit, and not a one-time exchange of land? Listen as Jonas Cornelsen (CMU alumnus living in Calgary) leads you through a fascinating and important 20-minute conversation. Visit www.cmu.ca/sowhatpodcast to listen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- Jim & Marlene Dyck are settling in at Katherina Courts where they will be until their house is repaired. They are grateful for the prayers, emails and phone calls they have received. They are doing well.

- Pray for Ken & Marianne Braun and Mike Tarnick who are at Eastview.

- Ken Hamm is back at the Health Science Center (since Feb 21) in Winnipeg. Pray for return of strength and peace.

- Pray for all those for whom mental health makes daily life a struggle. The current situation increases anxiety for many.

- Pray for those who experience physical pain, and for friends and family who help with their care.

- Many of our church family have other people they are concerned about. Pray for healing, strength and calm for all.

Prayer for Our Community

- Pray for ALL the teachers, students and staff as they navigate all the regulations and requirements.

- Pray also for the Health Care Providers.

- Pray for Doug Klassen (MCCanada's Executive Minister) and for church leaders at all levels of our conference.

- Michael Pahl is the new MCManitoba's Executive Minister.

- **Camps with Meaning Leadership Team announced**

Janet Peters, Assoc Program Director - Camps with Meaning is pleased to announce the Leadership Team for our 2021 Summer Camp program. Please pray for these young leaders as they begin to prepare for another interesting summer.

Summer Program Directors: Nic Harder (River East (MB)) and Katie Wilson (attending Home St), Bible Instructor: Johanna Klassen (First), Nature Instructor: Scott Warkentin (Home St), Coordinator: Trey Dornn (attending Westview Christian Fellowship in ON), Coordinator: Carrie Schulz (Home St), SLT Directors: Claudia Dueck (Douglas) and Dylan Peters (Bethel), TV Director: Mackenzie Nicolle (Home St)

Prayer for the World

- **Continued prayer for Myanmar** - With news of increasing violence in Myanmar, we invite you to continue to pray for the people of Myanmar. Pray also for our nationwide siblings in our community of faith, many of whom are still unable to reach their family members in Myanmar. We invite you to reach out with encouragement to: Calgary Chin Church, Alta. ChinChristian Church, Kitchener, OntGrace Christian Church, Ottawa, OntKitchener Emmanuel Church, Ont. Living Hope Christian Fellowship, Surrey, B.C.